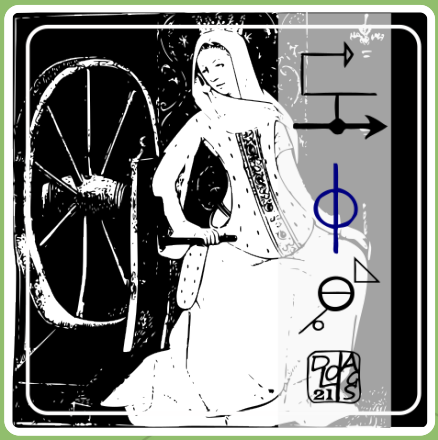


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roue de Fortune

The Wheel of Fortune is one of the most powerful images in medieval European culture. Inherited from antiquity and popularized by the writings of Boethius, it represents the instability of the human condition. People rise and fall with the turns of the goddess Fortune, never able to control their destiny for long. In manuscripts, cathedrals, and literary works, this wheel depicts kings becoming beggars and the humble rising to power. The image is based on a fundamental observation: any circular motion implies a change in position. The wheel thus becomes a metaphor for time, chance, and the fragility of human achievements. Unlike transport wheels, which allow us to control movement, the Wheel of Fortune reminds us of what lies beyond our control. Its influence spans the centuries and continues to appear in games, performances, and everyday expressions. It demonstrates how a technical object can become a tool for philosophical reflection. The wheel is no longer merely a material instrument; it becomes a way of thinking about the world.